AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that leprosy is on the rise in the tribal regions of Bihar; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to assess the magni tude of the problems and to provide necessary assistance to the Bihar Govern ment to provide adequate medical care *to* the affected people and to Check it from spreading?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNAKUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no evidence to show that Leprosy is on the rise in the tribal regions of Bihar. As per decision of the Government of India all hyper-endemic districts with prevalance rate of 10 per 1000 are to be covered under Multi-Drug Treatment. Deoghar district in Bihar which is inhabited mostly by tribal population has been taken up under Multi-Drug. Another Tribal District Singhbhum is also proposed to be taken up shortly.

Following grants have been sanctioned to Bihar for Leprosy Programme :-

(In Lakhs)

Year	Kind	Cash	Total
1984-85	37.21	25.00	62.21
1985-86 (Allocated)	38.00	26.00	64.00

Cash assistance is to develop infrastructure for treatments of leprosy patients.

Rail-cum-road bridge on Ganga

1841. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct a rail-cum-road bridge on Ganga Near Patna which would meet the requirements of defence of the north eastern region of the country; and

(b) if so, by when the work is likely ten start on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) An Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey in' connection with a rail bridge across the river Ganga near Patna is in progress. Survey is expected to be completed in the next year. Final decision on this project will be taken in consultation withi Bihar Govt, after receipt and examination of the Survey Report, subject to its clearance by the Planning Commission and availability of funds.

Requirement of wagons

1842. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate number of railway wagons required by coal, cement, fertilizers, petroleum and the Food Corporation of India during the current year, separately;

(b) whether the Railways are in a position to provide them required wagons *to* move their goods and produce; and

(c) if not, what remedial steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a)